The Evening Bulletin

5/28-1976 D

note marked part - is the aim revealed in the falsehood? HR

FBI-CIA Cover-Up Alleged

By TAD SZULC

The Warren Commission found "no evidence to show that (Lee Harvey) Oswald was employed, persuaded or encouraged by any foreign government to assassinate President Kennedy or that he was an agent of any foreign government. . ." But the commission did not have all the facts, according to this article to be published in The New Republic magazine. It was written by Tad Szulc, freelance journalist, who as a New York Times correspondent covered the rise of Fidel Castro.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency engaged in a cover-up of highly relevant information when the Warren Commission was investigating President John Kennedy's assassination in 1963 and 1964.

President Lyndon B. Johnson and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy became party to the effort, which consisted of withholding key facts from the Warren Commission. The cover-up continues even now 12 years later, the FBI still refuses to turn over to congressional investigators some of its most sensitive files on the circumstances of the killing in Dallas.

The Warren Commission was never told that Attorney General Kennedy secretly formed — before his brother was killed — a special intergovernmental committee, which included FBI and CIA representatives, to look into the possibility that Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro might organize attempts on the lives of high United States government officials. That this committee existed has been kept secret although information about it reposes in FBI files.

Bulletin

FIFTEEN CENTS

in JFK Death

The top-secret committee was created by Robert Kennedy presumably out of concern that Castro might retaliate against CIA attempts on his life carried out directly by the agency's operatives and with help from the Mafia.

That anti-Castro assassination plots were afoot in the early 1960s was unknown at the time (they were disclosed last year by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities) and the Warren Commission was not told of them. Only Allen W. Dulles, who had been CIA director, had knowledge of the anti-Castro plots. In its ignorance the commission couldn't search more intensively into the possible motives of Lee Harvey Oswald in killing the President. The commission had concluded that Oswald was the lone assassin in Dallas, but it acknowledged its inability to come up with the motive.

It does not follow, of course, that the Warren Commission would have traced Oswald's motives had it known of the anti-Castro conspiracies and of the establishment of Robert Kennedy's secret group some time before Dallas. There is still no proof that Castro was behind Oswald. But the cover-up made it impossible for the

Please Turn to Page

wald sent to the Dallas police department shortly before the assassination. Oswald demanded that the FBI stop "harassing" his Russian-born wife, Marina, and threatened to blow up the Dallas police headquarters if the FBI failed to desist. This become known only last year, and the FBI never offered a conclusive explanation for destroying the note. Likewise, the FBI inexplicably failed to place Oswald on its "dangerous list" although it did so with other members of the Fair Play Committee.

A CIA memorandum to the Rockefeller Commission, which last year investigated CIA abuses, said that the agency still feels, as it did in 1964, that the Warren Commission should have given more credence in its final report to the possibility of foreign links in the conspiracy against Kennedy. The memo said that there were promising leads that were not followed up. This statement contradicts the FBI memorandum, now in the possession of the Senate Select Committee, that the CIA refused to pursue leads obtained by the bureau. However, acute rivalry between the CIA and the FBI already existed at the time—they actually stopped cooperating altogether in 1970—and their estrangement could account for the contradictions.

The cover-up is among the reasons the Senate Select Committee voted on May 13 to recommend a congressional inquiry into the role of the intelligence agencies in the Warren Commission investigation, and into Oswald's motives.

The Senate committee first learned of the cover-up a few months ago. This is the new evidence the panel claims it has obtained about Oswald's motives. Sen. Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania and Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, who constitute a special subcommittee on the Kennedy assassination, have written a separate report on the subject. Neither Schweiker nor Hart has publicly revealed, thus far, the nature of the new evidence.

There is said to be great pressure to sanitize this report for publication while the full secret information would be turned over to the Senate's new permanent oversight committee on intelligence. The subcommittee report is expected to be issued in mid-June after the FBI and the CIA have inspected it to remove what they may consider "embarrassing" information.

Although senators are far from certain that the proposed inquiry would actually provide a conclusive answer about Oswald's motives, the FBI and the CIA cold find themselves under charges of obstruction of justice for having withheld significant material from the Warren Commission.

Among the questions likely to be raised in a new investigation is why Dulles concealed from the Warren Commission, on which he served, the plotting against Castro by the CIA. CIA's own records, released in mid-May, show that the agency had begun to plan Castro's assassination in March 1960, when Dulles was CIA director, and planning had by then begun for the Bay of Pigs. Excerpts from transcripts of the Warren Commission's executive sessions show that Dulles informed his colleagues that there were certain CIA secrets that he would keep from everybody except the President of the United States.

A similar question could be raised with John McCone, who was CIA director during the Warren Commission investigations and who should be called to testify in any new Senate inquiry. McCone was familiar with the anti-Castro plots and probably knew about Robert Kennedy's secret committee.

All the indications are that the existence of this committee was known to few people: Robert Kennedy himself, probably Dulles and McCone, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, and a few selected associates. Several aides of Robert Kennedy, including a former assistant director of the FBI, said in interviews last week that they had not known of the committee. They said, however, that it was possible tthat the group, acting in secrecy, worked out of the White House before and after the Kennedy assassination or from the attorney general's office.